

Pittsburgh, Pa., Sept. 6th, 1897.

My Dear Mr. Carnegie,

I see by the papers that you are about to purchase a small home for yourself in Scotland and congratulate you on the probability of soon having your own roof over your head. As I know you to be interested in the orchestra I write to say that the prospects for a successful season are very encouraging. Canvasers for the sale of season tickets start out to-day and will continue at work until the middle of October. I enclose a copy of a personal letter I have written to about two hundred persons, principally ladies, sending it wherever I thought it would do the most good.

Mr. Beatty is preparing a schedule of the attendance in the Art Galleries and comparing it with the attendance in the galleries of the principal cities. The result I think will astonish you.

We have a meeting of the Fine Arts Board to-morrow afternoon to decide as to the exercise of Founders day. Can we not count on your presence? I sincerely hope you may find it possible to run over at that time. My own desire is to make a determined effort to get President McKinley here, and if he is not absolutely prevented by public business I don't see why we cannot bring enough influence to bear upon him to have him on hand. In case

we succeed you must be sure to come.)

Our new plan for the selection of the art jury is working to perfection. The ballots are coming in every day from the United States and Europe and will continue until the 15th when the voting will close. As it stands now those in the lead are LaFarge, William M. Chase, of New York, ~~James~~ <sup>James</sup> of Boston, Homer of Maine, Cecilia Beaux of Philadelphia, Duveneck of Cincinnati, Orchardson Weeks and Benjamin Constant from the other side, a well distributed jury and a very notable lot of painters.

Last year you specifically authorized me to state that you would offer two prizes of five thousand dollars and three thousand dollars for the best two pictures by American artists shown in the fall exhibition. Last winter when you were here and we all discussed the new plans and decided on a new set of money prizes amounting in all to forty-five hundred (\$4500) dollars, I received the impression without, as I remember your saying so in so many words, that it was your wish to continue offering these prizes yourself. Is this the case and are we authorized to so state? Please understand that I am not suggesting that you do this, but if it is your desire to be still known as the giver of these special prizes we should know it positively.

Trusting this will find you and your family in the best of



health, I remain,

Very truly yours,

*W. N. Frew*

*A letter to Andrew Carnegie from William Nimick Frew, a Pittsburgh-based lawyer and businessman, who served as the first president of the Board of Trustees for the Carnegie Institute and Carnegie Library. He also served as the President of the Pittsburgh Orchestra Committee.*

*Artists mentioned in this letter, to act as potential judges for an upcoming art exhibition are:*

- **John La Farge** (1835 – 1910) American muralist and painter who also gained notoriety for his stained-glass window installations in churches along the East Coast.
- **Edmund Tarbell** (1862 – 1938) American Impressionist painter, mostly known for landscapes and portraiture. He would paint Henry Clay Frick and three U.S. Presidents and became a prominent member of the Boston School.
- **William Merritt Chase** (1849 – 1916) American Impressionist. Lauded for watercolor and oil portraiture. Also created the Chase School, which would later become the Parsons School of Design.
- **Winslow Homer** (1836 – 1910) Famous American landscape painter and illustrator. Known primarily for his maritime subjects, reflecting his time residing in Maine. His most notable work is widely agreed as “Breezing Up (A Fair Wind)”.
- **Cecilia Beaux** (1855 – 1942) American painter, notable for her portraiture, perfectionist technique, and her teaching at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia (where she was the first woman faculty member).
- **Frank Duveneck** (1848 – 1919) Kentucky-born American artist most notable for portraiture. Most recognizable work agreed by experts to be “The Whistling Boy”.
- **Jean-Joseph Benjamin-Constant** (1845 – 1902) French painter and etcher. Famous for his works depicting Moroccan city scenes in the Orientalist style.
- **Edwin Lord Weeks** (1849 – 1903) American artist who emigrated to France in 1872, where he would live until his death. A member of the Orientalist school of painters, his work primarily focused on natural and cityscapes depicting India.
- **Sir William Quiller Orchardson** (1832 – 1910) Scottish portrait artist who also depicted maritime and domestic environments. Known primarily for portraiture, and, in particular, his work “Napoleon onboard the Bellerophon”.

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Trusting this will find you and your family in the best of health, I remain,

Very truly yours,

December 31st, 1900.

Dear Sir:-

The Pittsburgh Orchestra makes its first appearance in Washington City in January, giving a second concert in February. The members of the Orchestra Committee, as well as the Guarantors of the Orchestra, will be very greatly pleased and honored if you can consent to act as one of the patrons of the occasions.

Mrs. John Dalzell has interested herself in the matter, and has invited the members of the Cabinet, several of the foreign diplomats, and the members of the Supreme Court, together with other gentlemen and their wives, prominent in Washington society. Most of those invited have, I am informed, already accepted.

The Orchestra has been very greatly improved since you heard it in November 1897. It now numbers seventy-five players, with Victor Herbert as conductor; and we hardly feel that we are rash in claiming for it a position second only to that of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. It is admitted by all expert critics to be one of the great musical organizations of the United States, and is supported by our best people here. The soloist at the January concert will be Madame Schumann-Heink.

I sincerely trust that you may find yourself in a position



to accede to this request.

Very truly yours,

*W. N. Frew*

Chairman Pittsburgh Orchestra Comm.

The President of the United States,

Washington,

D. C.

*A letter to President William McKinley from William N. Frew. The Mrs. John Dalzell referred to in the letter is Mary Louise Dalzell (nee Duff), wife of then U.S. House of Representatives member, John Dalzell. The featured soloist is Ernestine Schumann-Heink, a Bohemian-German contralto. At the time, Bohemia was a part of the Habsburg Monarchy, before it collapsed in 1916. Today, the land formerly known as Bohemia is the Czech Republic.*

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The President of the United States,

Washington,

D.C.



January 17th, 1901.

Mr. George B. Cortelyou,  
Secretary to the President,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

Enclosed you will please find six tickets for the two concerts to be given by the Pittsburgh Orchestra in Washington, on the afternoons of January 23rd and February 13th, 1901, at the Columbia Theater.

These tickets the Orchestra Committee have directed me to place at the disposal of the President and Mrs. McKinley. Trusting that they may be able and will find it agreeable to be present on these occasions, I remain

Very truly yours,

*W. N. Frew,*

Chairman Orchestra Committee.

*The recipient of this letter from W.N. Frew, George B. Cortelyou, served as the personal secretary to President William McKinley from 1897 to 1901. Cortelyou was present at McKinley's assassination. Cortelyou was among the parties who comforted the President after his collapse, and McKinley instructed him and the others to break the news gently to his wife Ida. After McKinley's death, Theodore Roosevelt succeeded him as the 26<sup>th</sup> President and would retain Cortelyou in his administration. Eventually, Roosevelt would appoint Cortelyou to his cabinet as Secretary of Commerce and Labor (an appointment which no longer exists).*

January 17<sup>th</sup>, 1901.

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Very truly yours,

Chairman Orchestra Committee.

Sept. 30th, 1901.

Hon. Grover Cleveland,  
Princeton, N.J.

Dear Sir:-

On behalf of the Governing Committee of the Pittsburgh Orchestra, I have the honor to extend to you and Mrs. Cleveland a very cordial invitation to be present at the inaugural concert of the Orchestra's seventh season to be given on the evening of November 7th, Founder's Day.

Trusting that you will find it convenient and agreeable to accept this invitation, I remain

Very respectfully yours,

*W. N. Gruo?*

Chairman Orchestra Committee.



*Letter to the Honorable Grover Cleveland from W.N. Frew. Cleveland had already served his two terms as President of the United States (1885 – 1889 & 1889 – 1897). By 1901, Cleveland had retired, while occasionally consulting with Theodore Roosevelt, who, at the time of this letter's composition, had not yet been elected 26<sup>th</sup> President.*

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